

MEMO

To: Transportation and Communications Committee
From: Lee Ann Garcia, Chair, Regional Transportation Demand Management Task Force
Date: October 16, 2003
RE: Report on the October 16, 2003 RTDM Task Force Meeting

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and File

SUMMARY: The Regional Transportation Demand Management Task Force met on October 16, 2003. In attendance were Chair, Hon. Lee Ann Garcia, Hon. Beatrice Proo, Hon. Robin Lowe. Also present were Hon. Ron Bates, Christine Dolan, OCTA, Marilyn Williams, RCTC, Michelle Kirkhoff, SANBAG, Carole Gomez, SCAQMD, Sandra Balmir, FTA, Deana Kotler, RCTC, David Sutton, LACMTA, Kelly Lynn, SANBAG, Melvin Mendoza, Caltrans D-7.

The Task Force meeting included an updated presentation on the HOV study, covering the results of the focus groups and photo license plate surveys. The survey and focus groups included both HOV users and non-users. The results showed significant support (75%) for HOV lanes (11% oppose HOV lanes), support for continued 2+ operation, support for 24/7 operation of HOV lanes, and additional HOV connectors. Issues of concern were safety (speed in the HOV lane), illegal entry across the double yellow line, poor signage, and congestion at merges. Overall the participants felt that HOV lanes saved time, encouraged carpooling, and helped reduce overall congestion. Mr. Bates, in follow up discussion, raised concerns about the issue of the cost effectiveness of HOV to HOV connectors, especially during the peak period, when overloaded merges cause the system to back up, creating congestion on the HOV mainlines. Ron Bates and Robin Lowe urged staff to look carefully at the operational performance of HOV connectors to better gauge the cost effectiveness.

SCAG Staff also presented a review of the TDM goals for the 2004 Draft RTP, and a comparison with the goals in the 2001 RTP, as well as the summary of interim surveys on current progress in attaining those goals. Issues presented centered on reaching the goals for carpools and vanpools and for telecommuting. These goals were ambitious for the 2001 RTP, and questions centered around the ability of the region to meet the goals, particularly the telecommute goals. SCAG staff identified a number of options for meeting the goals and potential tradeoffs for equivalent results. The Commission staff commented on the efforts underway in the region to coordinate TDM activities, especially ride matching, transit information, and employer/employee marketing. Discussion also occurred on the possible need to revisit incentive or regulatory approaches.

Concerns over the 2004 Draft RTP goals centered on 1) the adequacy of the resource commitments to achieve the TDM goals, 2) how realistic the proposed TDM goals are, and 3) the need to commit to ongoing monitoring activities (e.g. State of the Commute) to measure TDM effectiveness.

SCAG staff committed to distribute the LDA TDM consultant report to the Task Force as soon as possible. SCAG staff also committed to a meeting between SCAG RTP staff and the Commission's TDM staff to identify issues and concerns, points of agreement, and areas of possible refinement in the Draft 2004 RTP TDM strategies, and to report this back to the RTDM Task Force in November.

**Goods Movement Advisory Committee Meeting Summary
October 15, 2003 meeting**

The draft 2004 Regional Transportation Plan was discussed at the October 15, 2003 GMAC meeting. Mark Griffin, SCAG staff, reviewed the RTP presentation that was given at the October 2, 2003 TCC meeting. Copies of the TCC staff report of the RTP, which was distributed at the October 2 TCC meeting and the associated project lists were provided to the GMAC for their review and comment.

Summary of October 1, 2003 Southwest Compact Task Force

At the October 1, 2003 meeting of the Southwest Compact Task Force, SCAG was pleased to have representatives from the Houston-Galveston Area Council participate in the meeting via teleconference. Charlotte Eckelbecker, SCAG Government Affairs Staff, presented a status report on S. 458. Mark Griffin, SCAG, noted to the committee that SCAG has received a copy of a letter of support for S. 458 from the Alamo Area Council of Governments (San Antonio, Texas region). Also, Mark and Dilara Rodriguez, Caltrans, discussed possible multi-state or multi-jurisdiction partnership efforts.